

REMARKS

Claims 9, and 11-34 are pending in the application. Claims 24, 32, and 33 have been amended. No new matter has been added by the claim amendments. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the amendment and remarks submitted herewith.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 24-28 and 32-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims to overcome the rejections. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103**Claims 9 and 11-33**

Claims 9 and 11-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bonora et al., U.S. 5,895,191 (hereinafter "Bonora") in view of Briner et al., U.S. 5,810,537 (hereinafter "Briner") for the reasons stated on pages 3-4 of the office action. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

For an obviousness rejection to be proper, the Examiner must meet the burden of establishing that all elements of the invention are disclosed in the prior art; and that the prior art relied upon, coupled with knowledge generally available in the art at the time of the invention, must contain some suggestion or incentive that would have motivated the skilled artisan to modify a reference or combined references. *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *In Re Wilson*, 165 U.S.P.Q. 494, 496 (C.C.P.A. 1970). None of the references, however, teaches or suggests all elements of the claimed invention.

The Examiner has stated on page 3 of the office action that the shelf (116) of Bonora and the base plate (12) of Briner teach the movable stage (107) of claimed invention, respectively. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner. The stage (107) of claimed invention is movable, and thus, the container (102) mounted on the movable stage (107) can approach a door (104).

On the contrary, Col. 7, lines 28-32 of Bonora teaches that box (62) is resting on platform (116) held in place by retaining lock (118); and port (100) contains a linkage

KAW 98-2018-C
10/036,802

arm (152) that grabs horizontal cassette (71) and removes the cassette from container (60). Therefore, the platform (116), in Bonora, is not movable but fixed on the process tool (150). There is nothing, in Bonora, that the platform (116) is movable.

Further, the base plate, in Briner, is not movable but fixed. Fig. 4 of Briner teaches that the box (36) is lifted by a flexible isolator means (18), a platform, and a mechanism for the lifting the platform; wafers are housed within the space formed by the means (18); and the wafers are removed from the cassette (62) in the box (36). That is, the base plate (12), in Briner, is simply for supporting the box port and articles within, rather than being movable (See the abstract of Briner). Thus, Briner does not cure the deficiency of Bonora.

Furthermore, as indicated by the Examiner, Bonora does not show a gap between the opening portion and the door. This deficiency of Bonora is not cured by Briner. As shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of Briner, the bulkhead (22) protrudes in a high cleanliness side, and the door (26) moves vertically in the high cleanliness side. Therefore, a dust can be produced in the high cleanliness side during opening and closing the door. Thus, the apparatus described in Briner cannot meet the high standard of dust free level, which is applied to the claimed invention. Accordingly, Briner does not teach or suggest the element "a gap provided between the opening portion and the door through which air flows out from the high cleanliness room to the lower cleanliness room to prevent dust flowing into the high cleanliness room", as recited in claim 9.

Since neither Bonora nor Briner teaches or suggests the elements "a movable stage for mounting a container; and a gap provided between the opening portion and the door through which air flows out from the high cleanliness room to the lower cleanliness room to prevent dust flowing into the high cleanliness room", as recited in claim 9, the combination of Bonora and Briner does not render claim 9 obvious. Since they contain similar features, claims 16, 24, 29, and 32 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons given for claim 9. Claims 11-15 depend from claim 9, claims 17-23 depend from claim 16, claims 25-28 depend from claim 24, claims 30-31 depend from claim 29, and claim 33 depends from claim 32. Thus, these dependent claims are believed to be allowable due to their dependency on claims 9, 16, 24, 29, and 32.

Claim 34

Claim 34 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bonora in view of Briner, and further in view of Mastroianni (U.S. 6,068,668) for the reasons stated on pages 4-5 of the office action. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. The device of Mastroianni neither teaches nor suggests the elements "a movable stage for mounting a container, the container is disposed in a low cleanliness room", as recited in claim 32, from which claim 34 depends. Thus, Mastroianni does not cure the deficiency of the combination of Bonora and Briner. The combination of Bonora, Briner, and Mastroianni does not render claim 32 obvious, because the combination does not teach or suggest all elements of claim 32. Accordingly, claim 34 is believed to be allowable due to its dependency on claim 32.

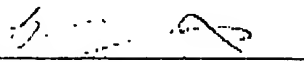
Conclusion.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicant's attorney hereby authorizes that such fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

CANTOR COLBURN LLP

By: 

Soonja Bac

Registration No.: See Attached
CANTOR COLBURN LLP
55 Griffin Road South
Bloomfield, CT 06002
Telephone (860) 286-2929
Facsimile (860) 286-0115
Customer No. 23413

Date: February 16, 2005

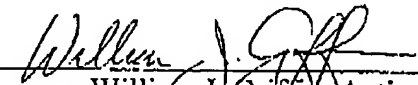
**BEFORE THE OFFICE OF ENROLLMENT AND DISCIPLINE
UNITED STATE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

LIMITED RECOGNITION UNDER 37 CFR § 11.9(b)

Soonja Bae is hereby given limited recognition under 37 CFR § 11.9(b) as an employee of Cantor Colburn LLP to prepare and prosecute patent applications wherein the patent applicant is the client of Cantor Colburn LLP, and the attorney or agent of record in the applications is a registered practitioner who is a member of Cantor Colburn LLP. This limited recognition shall expire on the date appearing below, or when whichever of the following events first occurs prior to the date appearing below: (i) Soonja Bae ceases to lawfully reside in the United States, (ii) Soonja Bae's employment with Cantor Colburn LLP ceases or is terminated, or (iii) Soonja Bae ceases to remain or reside in the United States on an H-1 visa.

This document constitutes proof of such recognition. The original of this document is on file in the Office of Enrollment and Discipline of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Expires: July 22, 2005



William J. Griffin, Acting Director
Office of Enrollment and Discipline